

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-17 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Lemay et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,802,778). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lemay teaches a gaming apparatus and method with operator-configurable paytables. A gaming terminal and method allow casino managers or other game operators to customize paytables, including poker paytables. Preferably, the system can verify or assist in verifying that the paytables comply with one or more various standards such as regulatory standards, e.g., such that the paytables are legal. In one aspect, payable verification calculations, such as calculations of overall payback or hold percentages, preferably in the manner acceptable to regulatory authorities, are performed in the electronic gaming terminal, e.g., using the gaming terminal microprocessor.

With regard to the claimed invention, a main display device (reel display panel 7) is added to claim 1 and 14, which is disposed in front of the plurality of reels and which displays a password input screen. In addition, the controller includes a first control circuit (reel display panel part image control circuit 251) for controlling the main display device and a second control circuit (upper display panel part image control circuit 250) that is independent of the first control circuit and used for controlling the image display device. The controller causes the second control circuit to allow the image display device to display the winning combination and an amount of payout while changing the amount payout. The controller causes the first control circuit to allow the main display device to display a password input screen. The features with which claim 1 is further defined are supported by Fig. 4 and the descriptions recited on page 23 lines 16 to 24 of the filed specification as follows:

The sub-control circuit 201 includes a sub-microcomputer 202, which is a main

constituent element, an upper display panel image control circuit 250 that drives and controls liquid crystal display devices, a reel display panel image control circuit 251, a lower display panel image control circuit 252, a sound source IC 230 that controls a sound emitted from the speakers 5L and 5R, a power amplifier 231 that is used as an amplifier, a reel back lamp control circuit 240, and an electronic shutter control circuit 270 that controls and shuts the reel display panel. These control circuits are constituted by a circuit board differing from that of the main control circuit 101.

Similar amendments are made to claim 8. The variable display device and the payout display device recited in claim 8 are the counterparts of the main display device and the image display device recited in claims 1 and 14, respectively. Lemay fails to teach the main display device and the image display device that are controlled by the controller through the first and second control circuits independent of each other.

The advantages resulting from the distinguishing features are that the main display device can display a new screen only if the first control circuit is replaced with and so can the image display device only if the second control circuit is replaced with. In this way, the present invention can provide a versatile gaming machine. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 8, and 14 are patentably novel over Lemay.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

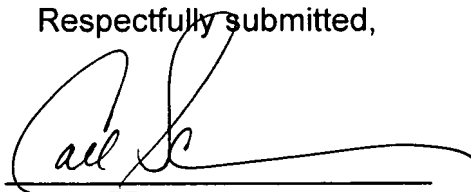
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 30, 2009

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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